

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00612 261947Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /026 W  
-----261950Z 055378 /46

O 261906Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4596  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 0612

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL AVINERI MADE A POINT OF TELLING ME AT AUSTRALIAN RECEPTION THIS EVENING THAT ISRAEL WAS STILL VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SYRIAN PENETRATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE HAD SEEN THE RESPONSES WE HAD RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF OUR DEMARCHES IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS AND FOUND THEM FAR FROM SATISFACTORY OR REASSURING. IT SEEMED THAT THE SYRIANS WERE ABOUT TO ACHIEVE THEIR LONG-TIME GOAL OF CONTROL OVER SOUTHERN LEBANON. IN THE PROCESS THEY WERE TESTING THE WILL OF THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION.

2. AVINERI ADMITTED THAT THE SYRIAN (ASF) FORCES HAD NOT CROSSED THE LITANI RIVER, BUT SAID THEY WERE NOW AGAIN IN POSITIONS THEY HAD HAD TO GIVE UP YEARS AGO. HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT THEIR PRESENCE WOULD SERVE TO CONTROL POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL, ADDING HOWEVER THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY BECAUSE THE BORDER WAS QUIET.

3. SYRIA SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GET AWAY WITH THIS,  
SECRET

SECRET

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AVINERI SAID. THE GOI WOULD, HE THOUGHT, BE MAKING ANOTHER APPROACH IN WASHINGTON ASKING THAT WE URGE THE SYRIANS TO PULL BACK. PERHAPS A FORMULA COULD BE FOUND, HE SAID, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE SYRIANS TO SAY THAT THEY HAD GONE TO THE SOUTH, FOUND IT PEACEFUL, AND WERE RETURNING TO THEIR NORMAL POSITIONS. THE GOI DID NOT CARE WHAT FACE-SAVING FORMULA WAS FOUND AS LONG AS THE

SYRIANS PULLED BACK.

4. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, AVINERI IS NOT CONSIDERED  
A HAWK IN THE ISRAELI CONTEXT. HIS COMMENTS ARE A GOOD  
INDICATION OF THE STRONG ISRAELI DESIRE NOT TO BE FACED WITH  
A HOSTILE FORCE ON ITS FRONTIER WITH LEBANON.  
DUNNIGAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TELAV00612  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, LE, SY  
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**Type:** TE  
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